

The Bam Bam Clock



J.P. McEVoy







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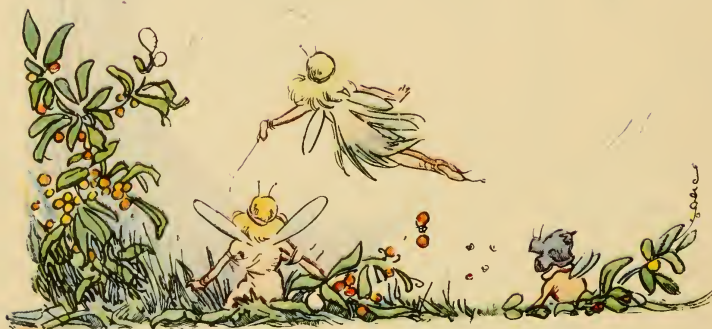


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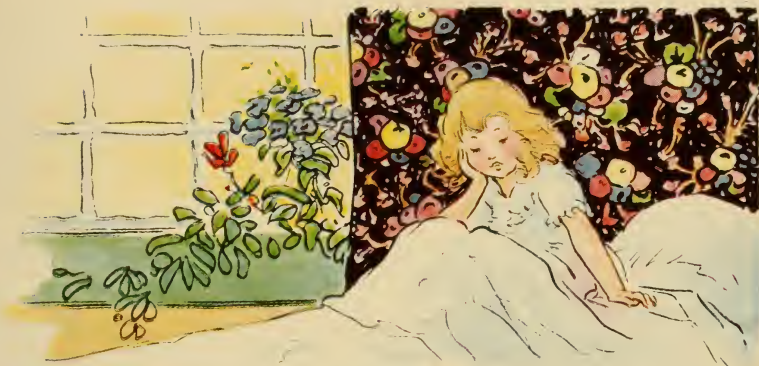
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JORDAN
PZ7
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To
Dorothy Mary
(Herself)



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THE BAM-BAM CLOCK

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Dorothy Mary who could never do things on time. She could never get up in the morning until all the birds had finished their morning songs and had gone to work for the day and she was never ready for breakfast until breakfast time was gone and, when it came time for lunch, she was so busy doing something else she didn't even get her lunch on time. And it was the same with her nap. She was so careless about it that some days she missed it entirely and other days she had it too late and other days too soon.



And, sometimes, she had supper at supper time, but mostly, she wasn't on time for that either and she never wanted to go to bed at all. Not at all.

So one day the Queen of the Fairies, who watches over little children and teaches them how to grow up, called all her little Fairies together to see what they could do about teaching Dorothy Mary how to grow up the right way.

"It is plain to be seen," said the Queen



Fairy, "that something must be done about Dorothy Mary. She is a good little girl and she means well, but that is just the trouble."

"Yes, that is just the trouble," cried all the little Fairies in a chorus.

"Some day, if she doesn't change, she will grow up to be one of these people who mean well but do nothing else. She must be taught how to be prompt, tidy and cheerful and we must begin teaching her right now."

"Yes, we must begin teaching her right now," chorused the Fairies.

"So, that is why I called you together," said the Queen Fairy. "Now, I have a suggestion."

"Oh, the Queen has a suggestion," cried all the little Fairies. "Let us listen to it."

"This is the suggestion," said the Queen Fairy. "Of course, we cannot help Dorothy Mary unless we are right there when she needs help and there are just six important times of the day when she needs help: Time-to-Get-Up, Time-for-Breakfast, Time-for-Lunch, Time-for-Nap, Time-for-Supper and Time-for-Bed. Now, we must have a little clock that will tell us all this.

"Yes, we must have a little clock," cried all the little Fairies.

"And, we cannot use the clock the Earth people use," said the Queen Fairy, "because that has a lot of things on it they call hours. We must have a different kind of clock."

"Oh yes, we must have a different kind of clock," cried the Fairies.

"We will use our own clock," said the Queen Fairy, "our own little Bam-Bam Clock."

"Hurrah!" shouted the Fairies, and one of them cried, "Won't Dorothy Mary love to have a Bam-Bam Clock?"

"I should say she will!" said the Queen Fairy. "No other child has ever had a Bam-Bam Clock and every child should have one."

One little fairy, who hadn't been in Fairy-land very long, piped up, "What is a Bam-Bam Clock?"





“Ho, ho, ho,” laughed the others, “he never heard of a Bam-Bam Clock. My goodness, where did he come from?”

“Hush!” said the Queen Fairy, “he has not been with us very long and when people ask fair questions, you must give fair answers. It is not polite to ‘ho ho’ at people.”

The little Fairies who had forgotten their manners quieted down at this rebuke and one of them said, "We are sorry we were so thoughtless, Queen Fairy. Please tell him about the Bam-Bam Clock."

"Well," said the Queen Fairy, "the Bam-Bam Clock is a magical clock. It has not hours on it like the Earth people's clock, but divides the day into six happy periods. The first is called 'Time-to-Get-Up' and then the Bam-Bam Clock says 'Bam!' When it is 'Time-for-Breakfast' it says 'Bam-Bam!' At 'Time-for-Lunch' it says 'Bam-Bam-Bam!' and at 'Time-for-Nap' it says 'Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam!' When it is 'Time-for-Supper' it says 'Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam!' and when it is 'Time-for-Bed' it says 'Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam!'"

And of course, being a magical clock, it is the home of magical fairies and they do magical things. Wouldn't you like to see the Bam-Bam Clock?"

“Oh my, I should say I would!” cried the New Little Fairy.

“Very well, then,” said the Queen Fairy. “This is my plan. We will bring the Bam-Bam Clock into Dorothy Mary’s nursery tonight while she is sleeping and the New Little Fairy may go along to watch the Bam-Bam Clock fairies at their work tomorrow, for then they begin to teach Dorothy Mary how to grow up to be a cheerful and tidy and prompt little girl.”

“Hurrah!” cried all the fairies. “Let us go and get the Bam-Bam Clock,” which they did, all but the New Little Fairy who slipped away into Dorothy Mary’s nursery and found a nice cozy corner behind Raggedy Ann and the Little Puppy Dog, from where he could watch the fairies of the Bam-Bam Clock at work.

It seemed that he had just gone off to sleep when he was awakened by what sounded like a tiny fairy drum—“Bam!”



He looked up and there on a little shelf where the sound came from, stood a tiny clock.

“That must be the Bam-Bam Clock,” he said to himself. “Now I will see if magical fairies really live in it,” and, sure enough, he had hardly finished saying this, when a troop of little fairies poured forth from behind the little glass door where the Pendulum Fairies live. Several of them flew over to the little white bed where Dorothy Mary was sleeping and tickled her under the chin until she woke up.

“Time-to-Get-Up,” they whispered.

“Oh, it is too early,” said Dorothy Mary.

“No, it isn’t,” said the Wake-up Fairy. “The Bam-Bam Clock said ‘Bam’ and that is ‘Time-to-Get-Up.’ The Clock says so and it is never wrong. Besides, if you will listen, you will hear all the birds outside singing their Good Morning songs. Do you know a Good Morning song?”



“Why no, I don’t,” said Dorothy Mary,
“I wish I did.”

“When you wish for anything good, you
always get it,” said the Wake-up Fairies, “so
now we will teach you a Good Morning song.”

So the two little Pendulum Fairies, Tick
and Tock, who know all about keeping time,
stepped out of the Bam-Bam Clock and stood
on the shelf, one on each side.

“We will keep time for you while you sing,
Dorothy Mary,” they cried.





“And I will write the words for you,” said the Poet Fairy, who wore long hair and wrote all the songs for the Fairies and the Birds. So, taking a little pad of paper out of his pocket and a pencil from behind his ear, the Poet Fairy wrote this little

GOOD MORNING SONG

(Tick Tock) Good morning to you,
Another bright morning of bird-song and dew,
Bringing new hours to make a glad day,
Hours for helpfulness, hours for play,
Hours for being as kind as can be,
And thoughtful of others as they are of me,
So on goes my dress and my little white sock,
Good morning to you. (Tick Tock)

It was no time until Dorothy Mary knew the words and it was easy to keep time, because Tick and Tock took care of that and as for the music, the little birds outside the window whistled that and almost before she knew it, so happy was she singing her Good Morning song, Dorothy Mary was up and had her dress on and her shoes and stockings. And when the Shoe-Button Fairies had finished helping her button the very last button, they hurried back into the Bam-Bam Clock, and then Tick and Tock held the little glass door open and all the Wake-up Fairies and the Dress-up Fairies and the Tidy-up Fairies who helped Dorothy Mary wash her face and hands and brush her hair flew back into the Bam-Bam Clock and then Tick and Tock stepped inside and closed the door after them.



The New Little Fairy watched all these wonderful happenings from behind Raggedy Ann and the Little Puppy Dog in the corner.

“I wonder what will happen next,” he said.

And just then the Bam-Bam Clock said “Bam-Bam!” and Tick and Tock came out and held the little glass door open and out flew a number of other fairies.

“Who are you?” asked Dorothy Mary.

“We are the ‘Time-for-Breakfast’ Fairies,” they said.

“But it is too early for breakfast,” said Dorothy Mary.

“Oh no, it isn’t,” said the leader. “When the Bam-Bam Clock says ‘Bam-Bam’ it is ‘Time-for-Breakfast.’ The Clock says so and it is never wrong.”

So the fairies took Dorothy Mary by each hand and led her to the breakfast table and there was a great big bowl of oatmeal and milk.





And there was also a nice sliced orange and some bread and butter and everything. Dorothy Mary clapped her hands in delight and reached for a slice of bread.

“Wait a minute,” said the leader of the “Time-for-Breakfast” Fairies, “Are you going to eat without saying your prayers? Even the tiniest animals wouldn’t do that. Every little bird and every little bee says a little prayer of thanks to the Giver of all good things and surely you should do no less.



“Here is a little prayer that all the fairies say before they eat,” and he taught Dorothy Mary the following little prayer:

Bless me, God, I humbly pray
And all Thòu givest me today,
And help me share for Love of Thee
With all in need, Thy gifts to me.

Breakfast seemed to taste much nicer to Dorothy Mary after saying her prayer, but still the Breakfast Fairies had plenty of work to do, teaching Dorothy Mary how to use just enough sugar without wasting it and how to eat without spilling half of her food on the table cloth and how never to talk when she had food in her mouth and how to keep her spoons and knives and forks from dropping on the floor and her milk from spilling and the crumbs from scattering and how to sit quietly at the table until everybody else was through. And then the “Time-for-Breakfast” Fairies flew back into the Bam-Bam Clock, meeting the “Time-for-Play” Fairies coming out.

All morning long the "Time-for-Play" Fairies played with Dorothy Mary and they showed her a lot of new games that could be played without breaking things. But just when it seemed as if they were having the most fun, they heard a sound as of a tiny fairy drum echoing through the house. It was the Bam-Bam Clock and it said:

"Bam-Bam-Bam!"





“Oh!” cried the “Time-for-Play” Fairies. “Listen to the Bam-Bam Clock. It says it is ‘Time-for-Lunch’” and almost before they had finished saying it, they met the “Time-for-Lunch” Fairies flying up to take care of Dorothy Mary.

“We will come back and play with you after lunch,” cried the “Time-for-Play” Fairies and they kissed Dorothy Mary goodbye and flew back into the Bam-Bam Clock. And sure enough, after the “Time-for-Lunch” Fairies had gone back into the Bam-Bam Clock, the “Time-for-Play” Fairies came out and played with Dorothy Mary and they played a lot of new games.

“Oh, I am having so much fun,” cried Dorothy Mary. “I didn’t know there were so many games that could be played without breaking things. I could play like this forever.”

“That would be nice,” cried the “Time-for-Play” Fairies, “but then you must have your nap. It must be nearly ‘Time-for-Nap’ now.”



And just as though these words were a signal, they heard the sound as of a tiny, fairy drum echoing through the house.

"Listen!" cried the "Time-for-Play" Fairies. "It is the Bam-Bam Clock," and sure enough this is what Dorothy Mary heard:

"Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam!"

"Goodbye Dorothy Mary. Here come the 'Time-for-Nap' Fairies."

"But I don't want to take my nap. It is too early," cried Dorothy Mary.

"The Bam-Bam Clock says it is 'Time-for-Nap,' " cried the "Time-for-Play" Fairies "and the Bam-Bam Clock is never wrong. Goodbye, we will see you after you have had your nap." And they kissed Dorothy Mary goodbye and hurried back to the Bam-Bam Clock.

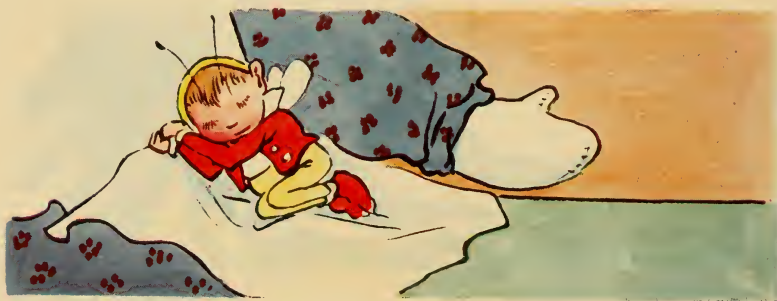
Then the "Time-for-Nap" Fairies came and showed Dorothy Mary how to undress herself and put on her little nightie and climb into bed.

High upon the shelf she saw the Bam-Bam Clock and sure enough, the hands pointed to "Time-for-Nap." Inside, she could hear the Pendulum Fairies. "Tick," said one, "Tock," said the other. "Tick," said the first one, "Tock," said the other. And then again "Tick" and then again "Tock," "Tick Tock, Tick Tock," until the first thing Dorothy Mary knew, she was asleep and dreaming beautiful dreams.



“Those Bam-Bam Clock Fairies surely know how to do things,” said the New Little Fairy, who had followed them around all day, with eyes opened wide in wonder. “I am going to get back to my little nook, and watch Dorothy Mary when she wakes up from her nap and see if she has learned anything from them,” and as he sat there listening to the Tick Tock Fairies talking to each other he fell asleep and had a little nap of his own. Not being as large as Dorothy Mary, his was not so long either, so he woke up before she did.

And wasn't he pleasantly surprised when having finished her nap, Dorothy Mary woke





up and jumped out of bed with a merry little smile on her face and busily began to put on her clothes and button up her shoes. Tick and Tock peeped out of the Bam-Bam Clock and watched her a little while and then Tick winked at Tock and Tock winked at Tick and they both popped back into the little Bam-Bam Clock and went to work again and Dorothy Mary began playing all the games the “Time-for-Play” Fairies had taught her, the games you can play and not break things, and almost before she realized the time had gone by so swiftly—for time flies when you are busy and happy—she heard the sound as of a tiny, fairy drum.

“Oh!” she cried, “it is the Bam-Bam Clock. It must be time for supper.” And sure enough, here is what the Bam-Bam Clock said:

“Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam!”

“I am going to surprise the “Time-for-Supper” Fairies, said Dorothy Mary to herself. And that is just what Dorothy Mary did, for when the “Time-for-Supper” Fairies hid behind the cups and the water glasses on the table and watched Dorothy Mary, they saw she had learned her manners well and they were so happy, they would have sung and danced, only it isn’t polite to do those things at the supper table.

And, to reward Dorothy Mary for having learned her lesson so well, the Bam-Bam Clock let all the “Time-for-Play” Fairies out to play with Dorothy Mary until it was “Time-for-Bed.” And they played and played. But soon the Tree Fairies who had been stretching the shadows all afternoon pulled them away out into the fields.

And the sun made up his feather bed of pink clouds in the western sky, and all the little birds came flying home, and down in the marsh the frogs began to sing the little song the Poet Fairy had written for them, which goes

Brek-ek-ek-ek-coax-coax,
Brek-ek-ek-ek-coax-coax.

"It ought to be nearly 'Time-for-Bed,' " said one of the "Time-for-Play" Fairies. "I am getting sleepy."

"So am I," said another, "I feel so—" He must have wanted to say "tired," but he never finished it, because he fell right down on the floor, fast asleep.

And then through the house there came the sound as of a tiny fairy drum growing louder and louder with every stroke.

"It is the Bam-Bam Clock," cried the "Time-for-Play" Fairies. "Listen!"

"Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam!"

“Good night, Dorothy Mary,” cried all the “Time-for-Play” Fairies, except the one who was fast asleep on the floor. “We will see you in the morning. Good night!” One after the other, they kissed Dorothy Mary.



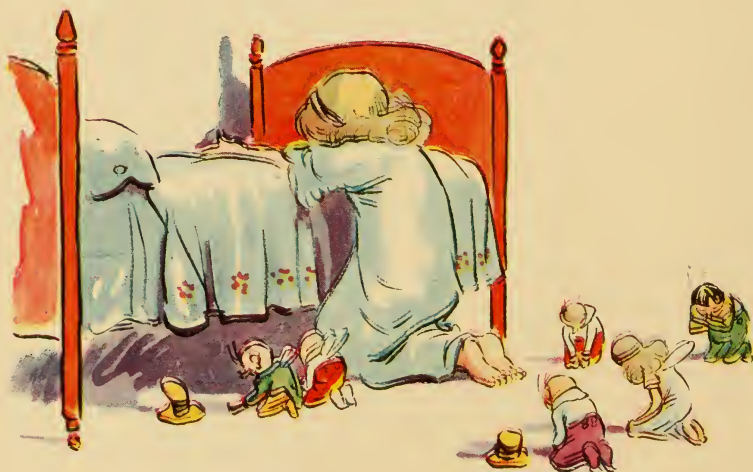


Now came the "Time-for-Bed" Fairies flying from the clock, each one carrying a little bag of sand on his shoulders and they took Dorothy Mary by the hands and led her into the nursery and while some of them helped her unbutton her shoes and unfasten her clothes, the others got out her little nightie for her and pulled back the covers of her bed and fixed the pillows.

And when Dorothy Mary put on her little nightie the leader of the “Time-for-Bed” Fairies cried, “Hush now, everybody! Dorothy Mary is going to say her good night prayers.”

And Dorothy Mary knelt down by her little bed and said:

Bless me, God, the long night through,
And bless my mamma and daddy, too,
And everyone who needs Your care,
And make tomorrow bright and fair,
And thank You, God, I humbly pray,
For all You did for me today

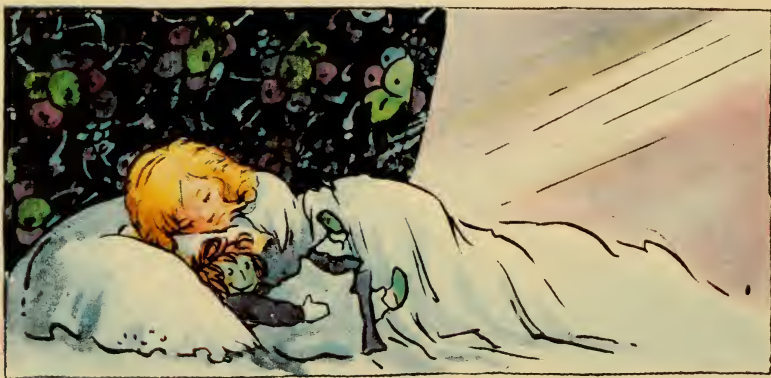


Then Dorothy Mary climbed into the little bed and the “Time-for-Bed” Fairies helped her pull up the little covers and tucked her in and began pouring their little sacks of sand on her eyelids and just before she went to sleep, they all tripped out and told Dorothy Mary’s mamma to come in and kiss her.

After Dorothy Mary’s mamma had kissed her good night, Tick and Tock came out of the Bam-Bam Clock, so sleepy they could hardly hold the door open and all the little “Time-for-Bed” Fairies flew back into the Bam-Bam Clock for the night.



But just before Tick and Tock started to close the door for the night, the New Little Fairy cried, "Wait a minute! There is a little 'Time-for-Play' Fairy asleep on the floor in the dining room. I will go and get him," and the New Little Fairy hurried out and picked up the sleeping "Time-for-Play" Fairy and carried him into the Bam-Bam Clock. And then the New Little Fairy shook hands with Tick and Tock and bade them good night and went back to his little corner behind Raggedy Ann and the Puppy Dog and, when the moon peeped in the window a few minutes later, he saw Dorothy



Mary and the New Little Fairy and Tick and Tock and all the Bam-Bam Clock Fairies fast asleep, waiting for the "bright and fair tomorrow" for which Dorothy Mary had prayed.

And this is the story of the Bam-Bam Clock and how Dorothy Mary came to be a cheerful, tidy and prompt little girl.





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